**Exercise 37 Study/Data Set Description**

In the data set, the sample was described as 135 women at a breast surgery clinic in an urban hospital. In this study, each woman participating in the study was asked questions pertaining to the number of days she delayed in seeking medical care, her age in years, her race, and the level of education. The answers to these questions were used to establish if any correlation existed between delay and any one of these variables. Each woman’s level of optimism was measured with the Life Orientation Test (LOT). This instrument contained 8 items. Each of the 8 items was scored on a 5-point scale from 0 (strongly disagree) to 4 (strongly agree). Then, the scores on the 8 items were averaged, yielding a general optimism score on a scale of 0 to 4 for each woman.

The researchers measured a number of variables including:

1. *Delay in seeking care.* Measured as the number of days between noticing a symptom and seeking medical assistance.
2. *Optimism.* Measured with the Life Orientation Test (LOT). Sample item: “In uncertain times, I usually expect the best.” Each of the eight items was scored on a five-point scale from 0 (strongly disagree) to 4 (strongly agree). Then, for each woman, the scores on the eight items were averaged, yielding scores from 0 to 4.
3. *Age.* Measured in years.
4. *Race.* Coded as W=White, A=African-American
5. *Education.* Coded from 0 (less than 8th grade) through 7 (doctorate or professional degree). Note that 3=high school diploma.

Holcomb, Zealure. (1997). Comprehensive Analysis: II. Care seeking for Breast Cancer Symptoms. Real Data: A Statistics Workbook Based on Empirical Data. Exercise 37. 123-129.